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U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS
FLM 4-63
May 1963

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS

RECORD HIGH IN 1963

World cattle numbers increased to 1.1 billion head in 1963, 19 million head more than the previous year, 169 million head above the 1951-55 average and 99 million head above 1956-60.

This world-high record in numbers is principally attributed to high prices received for beef and veal resulting from strong demand by consumers worldwide, as standards of living continue to rise and improvements in range husbandry, production techniques and feeding practices. Per capita demand for livestock products increases with consumer incomes.

The majority of large livestock-producing and-exporting countries are developing or enlarging programs of research for improving breeds, eradicating livestock diseases and promoting meat products in world trade. Slaughterhouses, freezing, and meat processing facilities are being constructed or enlarged in New Zealand, Australia, Africa, Central and South America, the USSR and other Iron Curtain countries.

Numbers increased 6 percent in Oceania and the USSR in 1962, 3 percent in North America, and 1 percent each in South America, Africa, and Asia. Europe was the only continent where numbers remained practically unchanged. Western Europe increased its numbers by 1 percent, while those of Eastern Europe declined 3 percent.

This Circular contains more detailed information than the summary of similar title published in the monthly supplement issue of World Agricultural Production and Trade, April 1963.

CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Estimated world total by continent or area,
averages 1951-55, and 1956-60, annual 1961-63

Continent	Averages		1961	1962 1/	1963 1/	Change	
	1951-55	1956-60				1956-60 to 1963	1962 to 1963
	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Percent	Percent
North America.....	129.8	137.9	143.9	147.5	152.0	+10	+3
South America.....	140.5	156.0	165.4	167.1	168.9	+8	+1
Europe:							
Western.....	73.2	77.6	83.2	84.8	85.5	+10	+1
Eastern.....	29.7	29.7	32.5	33.4	32.6	+10	-2
Total Europe...	102.9	107.3	115.7	118.2	118.1	+10	--
USSR.....	57.0	66.4	75.8	82.1	86.8	+31	+6
Africa.....	100.8	112.0	116.0	116.0	117.0	+4	+1
Asia.....	357.2	377.1	400.0	404.0	409.0	+8	+1
Oceania.....	21.1	22.8	24.0	25.0	26.6	+17	+6
Total world.....	909.3	979.5	1,040.8	1,059.9	1,078.4	+10	+2

1/ Preliminary.

Seventeen countries have 10 million or more cattle, 3 countries have 75 million or more. India has the world's largest cattle and buffalo population, leading by an estimated 235 million head. India's religious policies prohibit the slaughter of cattle. The United States ranks second with 103.8 million, and Russia third with 86.8 million; China, fourth.

Numbers in North America were up 4 million head from 1962 because of a continuing buildup of beef cattle in response to relatively high market prices. The United States has been importing increasing amounts of boneless beef from Central American countries. These countries are active in various programs to enlarge and improve beef cattle numbers and meat production. Mexico imported 5,030 head of U.S. beef breeding cattle in 1962, and it is anticipated that this market will increase in 1963. A total of 8,891 U.S. breeding beef cattle was exported in 1962.

South America - up 1.4 million from 1962, with the largest increase occurring in Brazil. Paraguay decreed a substantial tax reduction in December 1962, to provide impetus in developing its livestock and meat industries.

Argentina, the second largest cattle producer in South America, reduced its cattle numbers by one-half million because of drought.

Western Europe. Cattle numbers increased slightly, by 0.8 million, and numbers are now at record high levels in many countries. Continuing strong demand for beef, and relatively high cattle prices, have stimulated beef production programs. Improved breeding, production, processing and husbandry practices are being employed by many countries.

Eastern Europe. Cattle numbers are down almost 1 million, with nearly all countries showing decreases. Factors most responsible are adverse weather conditions, low productivity, and feed shortages.

The Soviet Union reports that its livestock numbers increased 5 million head over the 1962 cattle census. Cattle numbers are now reported at 87 million, a record high. However, with a severe cold winter combined with a disappointing feed supply in 1962, and continuing inefficiency in cattle production, this estimate may be high.

Africa. The increase in cattle numbers in 1962 over 1961 was slight--1.0 million head. Increases in 1962 were slightly greater than in the previous year. The majority of West African countries increased their cattle, while those of Central Equatorial African countries remained unchanged. Several of the major cattle-producing countries are still plagued with livestock diseases.

Asia. Cattle numbers increased 5 million head, the largest increase occurring in India. Other gains occurred in Iran, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. These increases were offset somewhat by slight losses in Iraq, Turkey, and Syria.

Oceania. Numbers increased 6 percent. New Zealand raised its cattle population almost 1 million head in 1962, and Australia increased cattle numbers by slightly over one-half million. Both Australia and New Zealand are progressively boosting beef cattle numbers and expanding processing and marketing facilities. Australian meat exports set a record in 1962 with 831 million pounds, product weight. Approximately 60 percent of these exports were sent to the United States. Meat is New Zealand's largest export dollar earner. It sold \$303.5 million of meat overseas in 1962 with 30 percent coming to the United States. Beef accounted for \$74.6 million of New Zealand's total meat exports.

CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Number in specified countries, averages 1951-55 and 1956-60, annual 1961-63 (continued)

Country	Averages		1961	1962 1/	1963 1/	Month of estimate
	1951-55	1956-60				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
Africa:						
Algeria 11/.....	835	777	650	---	---	Nov. 20 2/
Ethiopia-Eritrea.....	20,830	21,996	21,800	---	---	
Morocco.....	2,170	2,555	2,800	2,402	2,980	
Sudan, Republic of the.....	4,457	7,008	7,100	---	---	Dec. 2/
Tunisia.....	448	541	---	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
U.A.R., Egypt 9/.....	2,685	2,779	3,150	3,189	3,221	Jan. 1
Angola.....	1,237	1,221	---	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Bechuanaland.....	1,087	1,290	---	---	---	Aug. and Sept.
Burundi and Rwanda 12/.....	948	974	---	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Cameroon.....	1,236	1,269	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Congo (Leopoldville) 13/.....	762	5/ 967	---	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Guinea.....	1,150	5/ 1,135	1,319	1,385	---	
Ivory Coast.....	200	233	300	310	---	
Kenya.....	6,806	7,385	7,230	7,404	---	
Malgasy, Republic.....	5,960	6,324	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Mali, Republic of.....	2,560	5/ 3,190	3,864	4,173	4,500	
Mauritania.....	700	5/ 825	1,100	1,200	---	
Mozambique.....	782	904	1,088	---	---	
Niger.....	1,763	2,800	3,500	3,500	---	
Nigeria.....	9,734	5/ 9,500	9,000	---	---	
Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....	4,230	4,801	5,076	5,244	5,325	Dec. 31 2/
Senegal.....	1,000	5/ 1,320	1,671	1,755	---	
South Africa, Republic of....	11,700	11,600	---	---	---	Aug. 31
Southwest Africa.....	1,530	2,684	---	---	---	
Swaziland.....	421	484	535	---	---	Sept.
Tanganyika.....	6,393	7,191	7,940	---	---	Dec. 2/
Uganda 14/.....	2,738	3,330	3,618	3,660	---	
Upper Volta.....	1,399	1,630	1,780	1,800	---	
Total Africa 4/.....	100,840	112,020	116,000	116,000	117,000	
Asia:						
Iran 9/.....	4,654	5,403	4,700	4,794	4,805	March 21
Iraq 9/ 14/.....	2,177	5/ 2,000	---	---	---	March 21
Turkey (Europe and Asia) 9/..	11,577	13,175	13,575	13,237	13,100	Dec. 31 2/
U.A.R. Syria 9/.....	459	488	382	337	---	Dec. 31 2/
China Mainland 9/ 15/.....16/	59,700	65,250	---	---	---	June
Burma 9/.....	5,925	6,273	6,860	6,990	---	March
Cambodia 9/.....	1,176	1,370	1,600	---	---	Dec. 2/
Ceylon 9/.....	1,918	5/ 2,200	---	---	---	
China, Taiwan 9/.....	384	418	421	423	---	Dec. 2/
India 9/.....	200,392	207,119	226,809	---	---	
Indonesia 9/.....	7,576	7,920	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Japan.....	2,782	3,159	3,198	3,332	3,480	Feb. 1
Korea, South.....	616	955	1,012	1,097	---	Dec. 31 2/
Laos 9/.....	325	555	---	---	---	
Malaya 9/.....	510	552	582	---	---	July
Pakistan 9/.....	29,636	29,762	30,300	---	---	
Philippines 9/.....17/	3,467	4,585	4,991	5,300	---	March 1
Thailand 9/.....	11,025	11,421	11,848	12,050	---	March 31
Vietnam, South 9/.....	826	1,365	1,454	1,460	---	Dec. 2/
Total Asia 4/.....	357,265	377,100	400,000	404,000	409,000	
Oceania:						
Australia.....	15,361	16,673	17,332	16,070	18,600	March 31
New Zealand.....	5,468	5,852	6,446	6,660	7,690	Jan. 31
Total Oceania 4/.....	21,070	22,780	24,045	24,990	26,560	
TOTAL WORLD 4/.....	909,315	979,465	1,040,830	1,059,875	1,078,420	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ October-December numbers are included under the following year for comparison and totals.
 3/ Averages do not include Alaska and Hawaii. Estimates for Alaska and Hawaii are included in the United States totals beginning with 1961. 4/ Includes allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 5/ Less than a 5-year average. 6/ Includes Faroe Islands. 7/ December census. 8/ Includes Saarland. 9/ Includes buffaloes. 10/ May 31 census. 11/ Taxed only. 12/ Formerly Ruanda Urundi. 13/ Formerly Belgian Congo. 14/ On native farms. 15/ Includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang, and Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 16/ June census. 17/ January census.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States agricultural attaches and other representatives abroad, results of office research and related information.
 April 15, 1963.

CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Number in specified countries, averages 1951-55 and 1956-60, annual 1961-63

Country	Averages		1961	1962 1/	1963 1/	Month of estimate
	1951-55	1956-60				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
North America:						
Canada (excluding Newfoundland).....	8,673	10,254	10,897	10,933	11,206	Dec. 1 2/
Mexico.....	17,200	19,320	21,100	22,500	23,500	Spring
United States.....	3/ 91,333	3/ 93,899	97,534	100,002	103,734	Jan. 1
Puerto Rico.....	382	416	462	---	---	Jan. 1
Costa Rica.....	705	988	1,097	1,126	1,145	Spring
El Salvador.....	869	938	825	---	---	Oct. 2/
Guatemala.....	1,133	1,081	1,134	1,121	---	April
Honduras.....	1,153	1,166	1,237	1,262	---	Aug.
Nicaragua.....	1,213	1,377	1,572	1,651	1,734	---
Panama.....	573	636	761	835	836	Aug.
Cuba.....	4,408	5,565	5,025	4,523	---	Dec. 2/
Dominican Republic.....	885	947	950	950	850	July
Total North America 4/.....	129,810	137,940	143,870	147,460	152,040	
South America:						
Argentina.....	42,338	43,375	43,200	42,500	42,000	June 30
Bolivia.....	5/ 2,260	5/ 2,317	2,100	2,000	---	Jan. 1
Brazil.....	56,071	68,820	73,962	76,176	78,080	Dec. 31 2/
Chile.....	2,630	2,917	2,940	2,935	2,940	Jan. 1
Colombia.....	12,944	14,046	15,400	15,600	15,600	Oct. 1 2/
Ecuador.....	1,377	1,387	1,550	1,680	1,750	---
Paraguay.....	4,099	3,770	3,689	3,690	---	---
Peru.....	3,208	3,402	3,820	3,824	4,015	Dec. 31 2/
Uruguay.....	7,797	7,414	8,680	8,516	8,617	May
Venezuela.....	7,512	8,288	9,800	10,000	10,000	---
Total South America 4/.....	140,460	155,960	165,360	167,140	168,910	
Europe:						
Austria.....	2,303	2,311	2,387	2,460	2,440	Dec. 3 2/
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	2,284	2,548	2,684	2,640	2,700	Jan.
Denmark 6/.....	7/ 2,989	3,172	3,358	3,460	3,390	Jan.
Finland.....	1,852	1,898	2,057	2,150	---	June
France.....	16,506	18,086	19,436	20,010	20,680	Oct. 2/
Germany, West 8/.....	11,546	12,276	12,867	13,280	13,350	Dec. 2/
Greece 9/.....	942	1,084	1,135	1,180	1,210	Dec. 31 2/
Ireland.....	3,925	4,077	4,241	4,130	4,140	Jan.
Italy 9/.....	8,711	8,811	9,845	9,900	9,800	Jan. 1
Netherlands.....	2,733	2,910	3,228	3,390	3,520	Dec. 2/
Norway.....	1,127	1,066	1,114	1,140	1,100	Dec. 31 2/
Portugal.....	7/ 1,050	1,114	1,115	---	---	Jan.
Spain.....	10/ 2,888	10/ 3,048	3,640	3,770	3,880	Dec. 2/
Sweden.....	2,557	2,497	2,575	2,660	---	June 1
Switzerland.....	1,620	1,677	1,761	1,780	1,730	April
United Kingdom.....	10,132	10,954	11,702	11,630	---	Dec. 2/
Total Western Europe 4/.....	73,215	77,590	83,210	84,750	85,540	
Albania 9/.....	411	424	---	---	---	---
Bulgaria 9/.....	1,896	1,666	1,642	1,772	---	Jan.
Czechoslovakia.....	4,249	4,164	4,387	4,518	4,507	Jan. 1
Germany, East.....	3,790	3,967	4,675	4,516	4,400	Dec. 3 2/
Hungary.....	2,108	2,011	1,957	1,987	1,940	March
Poland.....	7,488	7,752	9,168	9,590	9,500	June 30
Rumania 9/.....	4,647	4,563	4,530	4,707	4,650	Jan.
Yugoslavia 9/.....	5,061	5,129	5,761	5,921	5,380	Jan. 15
Total Eastern Europe 4/.....	29,650	29,675	32,545	33,435	32,570	
Total Europe 4/.....	102,865	107,265	115,755	118,185	118,110	
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	57,005	66,400	75,800	82,100	86,800	Jan. 1

(Continued)

